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Canton, 6th February, 1904. [a197]

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[a254]

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The Daily Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 11, DES VUE ROAD, C.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

HONGKONG, 29TH FEBRUARY, 1904

That the Japanese possessed newer and more suitable fighting ships, those out in the Far East possessed of expert knowledge have steadily maintained; that the crews were under better discipline, and the officers in all that concerned their duty were far ahead of their probable Russian adversaries the same experts, in the face of European authorities to the contrary, also steadily maintained. That the Japanese would fight for their country to the last, and were second to none in courage and promptitude was generally acknowledged. That they should possess over and above all these qualifications a power of concentration and self control, never to be found except in conjunction with the highest mental and intellectual power, was more than we could naturally expect; and therefore did not look for. The two Japanese attacks on Port Arthur of the 8th and 13th February deserve all the encomiums we have passed; but in addition to this, and in view of the markedly original, and hitherto unprecedented nature of the attack, it is not too much to say that the Japanese tactics at Port Arthur open out a distinctly new chapter in naval warfare. The lesson to be impressed on the generation is, however, the old one of the valley of Elah, when GOLIATH of Gath, whose spear shaft was like a weaver's beam, was notwithstanding, or rather in consequence of the weight of his offensive armour, put hors de combat at the first stroke. David's sling and stone, the prototype of the Japanese torpedo-boat, was a far more effective weapon in the hands of the skilled slinger than the overweighted and unhandy spear carried by his opponent. Having said so much for the weapons, we must not neglect the men. Had the weapons been reversed,

and GOLIATH the slinger, is there any reason to doubt that the result would have been the same? We need not dwell on the other similarities in the two stories; the boastful brag of GOLIATH, who had afflicted the minds of all beholders by the mere bigness of his body, and the plain, simple faith of the other in the goodness of his cause—and, it must not be forgotten, the skill of the trained slinger.

It is not, however, so much to point out the circumstances under which the skirmish—for technically, in the absence of any definite result save the damage done to certain of the Russian ships, the action at Port Arthur was but a skirmish—proved so disastrous to Russian arms, and Russian prestige, as to indicate its probable effect on the future of the campaign, that we write these lines. There is little doubt that the first idea of the Russians was that the war was to be, in the main, on their side offensive; but the circumstance of having the two ports Vladivostok and Port Arthur endangered at the outset somewhat disconcerted their operations. The Russian commander was evidently unsettled in his mind as to which to make his basis of operations, and divided his fleet between the two. Seeing at the last moment the error, he attempted to unite the two squadrons, but the Japanese at once intercepted their fleet between the two separated divisions. As an offensive post Port Arthur, as long as the Power holding it has command of the sea, must continue to be of supreme importance in any Power in hostility with Japan; and this was evidently thoroughly understood by the Japanese commanders, who conceived the bold design of so far weakening its resources as to reduce its offensive power. In this the Japanese admiral was more successful evidently than he had any reason to expect. The Russian admiral also saw this very evident position, and acting on his knowledge set his fleet in motion, apparently in the hope of meeting one of the Japanese squadrons, and being able to inflict on it serious damage, or even to capture or put out of action so many ships as to give a preponderance to the Russian Port Arthur squadron. Not seeing any apparent signs of the enemy, he, probably in order to be in time for the intended festivities on the evening of the 8th February, returned to port, but did not take all his ships into harbour. As we have before remarked, no nation on earth possesses a more thoroughly organised intelligence department than the Japanese. The commander of the squadron evidently was able to penetrate the Russian plan of action, but he did more; he had obtained by some means a copy of the Russian private code of signals, and apparently had come to learn of the intended entertainment. He was not slow to turn his information to the best advantage, and herein was plainly shown the advantage that DAVID had over GOLIATH. In a word, while GOLIATH was pluming himself on the superiority of his armour, the other had made up his mind to action, and discarding the weapons offered by SAUL, armed himself with a solitary sling and staff. Even DAVID seems to have had too much self confidence, for having succeeded in killing his opponent, he had not the means to complete the victory by cutting off his head, and had to depend on the enemy's sword for the purpose. It was hardly to be expected that a second attack on Port Arthur would have been equally advantageous. The Japanese did, however, succeed in still further weakening the enemy; and seeing that nothing more remained possible, wisely retired. So ended the first act of a very serious drama.

What followed is not less interesting, and though there has as yet resulted no actual fighting, the stage is plainly being cleared for the second act; and we can begin to form some forecast of its aims. We have before spoken of the want of initiative in the Russian character. This was shown by conspicuously shown in her diplomacy, which was a mere repetition of certain well-worn devices; they had been eminently successful before, and, thought Russia, that was a sufficiently good reason for trying them again. To a certain extent they proved successful again in Europe. Even Great Britain at first was deceived into believing in the omnipotence of Russia; and left her an open door to establish herself in Port Arthur, the fruitful source of the present trouble.

But not less devoid of originality is Russia's military history. Two hundred years ago Sweden was acknowledged to be the most powerful of European states. Its King, CHARLES XII., declared war against Peter the Great, and there is no doubt that the campaign he carried out with any ordinary degree of prudence that the

present position of affairs would have been reversed and Russia remained a third-rate Power. Not content with the victory that was in his hands, CHARLES, who though a soldier was no general, attempted a mad movement on the Ukraine, and left his flank exposed. When he had in Peter's opinion gone far enough the latter attacked him, destroyed his army, and forced CHARLES with a few followers to take refuge in Turkey. Sweden never recovered the blow. A hundred years later NAPOLEON made war equally successfully on Russia. Russia, however, adopted the same tactics as before; she permitted NAPOLEON to actually occupy Moscow, and then came her revenge. The world looked on in wonder at the gigantic sacrifices Russia had made, and shook its head. The result was the ruin of NAPOLEON, and his schemes of universal dominion. Now of course the scene has shifted, and it is Russia who dreams the dream. Conscious that she was marked out as the next victim for Russia's ambition, Japan has declared war; but here the resemblance ends. Japan certainly has no object of invading Russia; she seeks no aggrandisement of power or territory; her aims are terminated by her desire to be let alone. The giant was preparing with his weaver's beam to strike his small adversary to the ground; but the youth, taking advantage of the momentary neglect of his guard, administered a painful and damaging blow. Prudence no less than ordinary self-respect would have recommended silence; but Russia, like an underbred cur, at once commenced to howl, much to the disgust of the onlookers, who from the previous GOLIATH-like boasts of the giant, at least expected a good fight. But Russia has been even more foolish; for in her rage she has exposed her own methods; and it is noteworthy that they are the same identically as those which twice before, under very different circumstances, and when she was a comparatively insignificant Power, stood her indeed in good stead. Russia's greed for territory led her in 1860 to take advantage of China's weakness to seize in no very creditable manner the sea-coast of Manchuria, and there, proud of her achievement, she established the apparent stronghold of Vladivostok, which she has ever since maintained as a threat against her neighbours on the Pacific. For a time Vladivostok indeed looked formidable, but with the advance of the offensive power of modern artillery turned out little better than a delusion. Vladivostok in fact is an ideal fortress—for the attacking force; and probably no stronghold in the world offers such a temptation for bombardment by a strong naval Power. Fortunately Russia was the very last of the Powers to find this out, and no friend was kind enough to point it out to her till she was unwise enough to proclaim it to the world. Temporarily checked at Port Arthur, and deprived of the immediate means of carrying on from there an aggressive policy, she has no more originality than to fall back on the old expedient of seeking to draw the new enemy to commit the mistake of her former invaders. We reveal now no secrets, for Japan has shown how much better than the other she comprehends the possibilities of modern warfare. Russia has declared her intention of leaving both Port Arthur and Vladivostok and retiring into the heart of the Manchurian wilds, in the full expectation that Japan will repeat the mistakes of her predecessors. But is Japan likely to be caught by such very antiquated strategy? We opine that nothing would suit Japan's immediate policy better than such a move. Japan has not entered on the war with the object of territorial expansion, whatever may be the final result, and probably nothing would suit her better at the moment. At all events, the interest of the onlookers is at the moment centred on what is to happen on the opening of Vladivostok; and we feel fairly well assured that the next act of the drama will be enacted on the stage of Vladivostok, and its ultimate aim will be the acquisition of the command of the line from the coast to Harbin.

Lieutenant J. D. Danby, R.N.V.C., has been granted leave of absence for twelve months from the 3rd March.

It is notified in the Gazette that Messrs G. N. Orme and A. G. M. Fletcher, cadets, have passed their examinations in Chinese.

The new Jurors' List is published in the Gazette, as is also a list of Masters, Matrons and Engineers who have passed examinations.

It is officially announced from Rome that Count Ercoli Orsini, Italian Minister at Tokyo, is promoted to be a Minister Plenipotentiary of the first class.

There will be a vacancy in the British Embassy at St. Petersburg this spring, as Sir Charles Scott is about to retire in April. As far as is known at present, his Excellency's successor has not been selected.

It is notified in the Gazette that Mr. E. C. Wilks has been authorised to survey the boilers on unlicensed steamers not exceeding sixty tons.

Sir John Anderson, K.C.M.G., the new Governor of the Straits Settlements, hopes to leave England towards the end of March to take up the duties of his new post.

The appointment is notified in the Gazette of Mr. E. E. Hallifax as Acting Captain Superintendent of Police on the departure of Capt. F. W. Lyons on leave of absence.

Sub-Lieutenant R. L. Jermain has been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in His Majesty's Fleet, for services during the operations in North China in 1900.

The appointments are notified in the Gazette of Capt. L. A. W. Barnes-Lawrence, R.N., to be Harbour-master, etc., in this Colony; and to be an Official Member of the Legislative Council.

Mr. Donald Macgregor, deputy foreman in the Temperate House, Royal Gardens, Kew, Surrey, has been appointed superintendent of the Parks and Open Spaces at Shanghai.

In its reply last month to the report of a committee of the First Chamber of the Dutch States-General on the naval estimates, the Government stated that the immediate reinforcement of the auxiliary squadron in the Dutch Indies was engaging its attention.

It is reported at Toronto that the Imperial authorities are contemplating transferring the Earl of Minto to India to succeed Lord Curzon as Viceroy, and promoting the Earl of Dundonald from the post of Commander-in-Chief of the Canadian Militia to the Governor-Generalship of the Dominion.

The Korean Minister at Washington called at the State Department on the 25th ultimo and gave assurance for the protection of American interests, at the same time landing in his letters of recall and of the declaration of the neutrality of Korea as between Russia and Japan. The recall is said to be due to the desire of Korea to have the advice at Seoul of a diplomatist versed in American ideas.

Writing last month, a home contemporary said:—The rumours as to the despatch of a considerable naval reinforcement to the China Station—three battleships and a cruiser from the Mediterranean—are certainly premature. Beyond the *Illustrations*, which has for some weeks past been held in readiness to leave should occasion demand, nothing is contemplated.

There are now in the harbour five British battleships, namely the *Albion*, *Centurion*, *Glory*, *Ocean*, and *Vengeance*. The cruisers in the harbour are the *Blenheim*, *Cressy*, *Leviathan*, *Sirius*, and *Fearless*. The *Amphitrite* remains at Mirs Bay. In addition to these 11, the despatch boat *Alacrity*, the gunboat *Bramble*, the surveying ships *Bombard* and *Waterwitch*, the coast-defence ship *Wieran*, and a few torpedo-destroyers are here. Admiral Noel is due by the next English Mail steamer.

By the P. & O. ss. *Chusan* on Saturday Mr. W. C. D. Turner, of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, Hongkong's most successful cricketer in the past two seasons. This season indeed he has gained his right to be called a batsman second to none in the Far East. As his father, the late Major Turner, A.P.D., was also a fine cricketer in Hongkong, and his brother is an Essex county bat, this is not surprising. Mr. Turner goes on a year's leave. He will be welcomed back, and his cricket in England meanwhile will be followed with interest.

The recently launched cruiser *Roxburgh* embraces some improvements on the "County" class, especially in the matter of armament. Her length is 450 ft., breadth 68 ft., depth 38 ft., tonnage 10,700, speed 22 knots. In general construction the *Roxburgh* follows closely on the lines of the cruisers *Monmouth* and *Camperdown*, built and completed by the same firm. A double bottom extends the whole length of the machinery and magazine spaces. Her armor-belt extending for 250 feet is six inches thick, and four and a half inches forward. The main deck is specially strengthened, having two thicknesses of plating fitted. Her armament consists of two 7.5 breech-loading quick-firing guns of latest pattern mounted in barbets, ten six-inch quick-firing guns in casemates, two 12-pounders, twenty-three 3 pounders, two Maxims, and two submerged torpedo-tubes. There are four boiler rooms. In the aft boiler room are cylindrical boilers, and in the three other boiler rooms are Durr boilers, having working pressure of 220 lbs. to the square inch.

THE DALLAS COMPANY.

The Henry Dallas Musical Comedy Company were favoured with a crowded audience at the Theatre Royal on Saturday evening when they staged *The French Maid*. We cannot say that the piece was one in which the Company appeared at their best, for the second act was distinctly disappointing. It was manifest in the first act that the Company includes some very talented artists, notably Mr. Percival Knight who took the part of the waiter; Mr. Duncan Munro, who appeared as the jolly Jack Tar; Mr. Frank Cochrane, who filled the amusing rôle of the gendarme; and Miss Alice Wade, who took the rôle of the girl. The audience indeed were very demonstrative in their appreciation of many items in the first act, and the applause was certainly well merited. But we cannot say that it was not given as written by the author, and that it has suffered much in the process of "adaptation." In the previous pieces staged the Company have shown their talent to better advantage and may be expected to do so again to-night in the *Runaway Girl*.

TELEGRAMS.

"DAILY PRESS" SERVICE.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.]

THE WAR.

THE ATT. MPTED BLOCKING
OF PORT ARTHUR.

Kobe, 26th Feb., 12.5 p.m.

The S. Petersburg report of the sinking of four Japanese battleships at Port Arthur is wholly discredited in Japan. It appears, however, that the Japanese plan of attack on the 24th instant, was frustrated by the defenders. One or two small vessels which the Japanese intended to use in blocking the harbour mouth were sunk by fire from the Russian forts before their purpose had been effected.

The vessels sunk at Port Arthur were the transport-steamers *Winsen*, *Tenshin*, *Hokoku*, and *Bushu-maru*. They were scuttled purposely by the Japanese in order to block the entrance to the harbour. Their crews escaped.

[The above details correspond fairly closely with the Japanese official accounts in another column, though the names of the ships are differently spelt.—Ed. D.P.]

THE FOURTH TEST MATCH.

LOW SCORING.

London, 27th February, 10.25 a.m.

The first innings of England at Sydney concluded for 249, the three outstanding wickets adding 42. Knight was top scorer with 70, not out. The Australians lost five wickets for 114, Trumper only making 7 runs.

REUTERS' SERVICE.

THE RECENT ATTACK ON PORT ARTHUR.

London, 25th February.

It is officially notified that Admiral Alexioff has telegraphed that the Japanese re-attacked Port Arthur at 2.45 on the morning of the 24th inst. with torpedo-boats, and endeavoured to block the harbour by sinking four steamers filled with combustibles. The *Reliance* supported the batteries and destroyed two steamers near the entrance. The fire against the torpedo-boats was maintained until dawn, and daylight revealed four steamers destroyed and eight torpedo-boats steaming towards the Japanese fleet. The crews of the steamers took to the boats and some were drowned. The entrance to the harbour is clear. The enemy left in two divisions, pursued by three Russian cruisers, which returned later. There were no Russian losses.

RUSSIA CLAIMS VICTORY.

London, 25th February.

A Russian official despatch states that the Japanese re-attacked Port Arthur on Thursday morning and were repulsed all along the line.

THE CHEMULPO REFUGEES.

London, 25th February.

Japan has intimated her willingness to allow the Russian Chemulpo prisoners, now en route to Ceylon for detention by the British Government, to return to Russia en parole. Great Britain is now corresponding with Russia with a view to such an arrangement.

THE TRANS-BAIKAL LINE.

London, 26th February.

The Baikal Lake ice-railway is now completed and trains are crossing.

THE MANCHURIAN RAILWAY.

London, 26th February.

An official report to the Director-General of Chinese Railways states that the Manchurian Railway is strongly guarded; at every mile, approximately, there is a high watch-tower, with thirty Cossacks.

MR. BALFOUR CONVALESCENT.

London, 25th February.

Mr. Balfour has resumed the duties of Premier in the House of Commons.

THE WAR.

JAPANESE OFFICIAL REPORT ON

PORT ARTHUR.

Mr. Masaoichi Noma, Japanese Consul in Hongkong, on Saturday forwarded to us copies of the following official telegrams, which he received that day:—

"Tokyo, 26th February, 4.20 p.m.—Shortly before daybreak on the 24th instant, our torpedo flotilla escorted three or four old merchant vessels to Port Arthur, where they were to be sunk for the purpose of blocking all ingress. The vessels were successfully scuttled and foundered in the pass. All the officers and crews were brought back safely. Although no official confirmation has been received from Admiral Togo, it is certain that our fleet sustained no damage."

"Tokyo, 27th February, 1.55 a.m.—According to a report received on the 28th instant from Vice-Admiral Kamizura, who is in command of a detached squadron, our torpedo flotilla, which accompanied the old steamers sent to block the pass at Port Arthur, reports that the *Hokoku-maru* was sunk just under the lighthouse to the left of the entrance of the port; the *Bushu-maru* settled down just outside of her. The *Tenshin-maru*, *Zuyo-maru* and *Jinsen-maru* were sunk in like manner to the eastward of Lactianshan and at the entrance. The crews of these steamers all escaped in safety, and our destroyers and torpedo flotilla returned without having suffered any damage. This took place in the early morning of the 24th instant."

"On the same night, our fleet of destroyers were despatched to Port Arthur, Talienwan Bay, and Figeon Bay in search of the enemy's ships, and an attack was made on the Russian vessels. On the morning of the 25th, our main fleet opened fire at a long range on the enemy's ships and forts at Port Arthur. The *Norik*, *Asakid*, and *Bayarin* fled into the inner harbour shortly after midday. From this it would seem that we have not yet succeeded in blocking up the entrance completely. After the Russian fleet had retired our fleet advanced and attacked the inner harbour. A bombardment on the port and forts was kept up for fifteen minutes, and an explosion in the town, created by our shells, was witnessed. Our boats then withdrew."

"On the same day our fleet attacked a Russian destroyer and succeeded in disabling it near Rootienzan. In these engagements no damages were incurred by our vessels and no officers or men were injured. Further details are expected shortly in Admiral Togo's report."

WHAT MANILA HEARS.

The *Manila Cables* continues to publish the most astounding inventions as telegrams "by Far Eastern Press Association." We wonder what the *Cables* readers do when they want to learn the truth of what is going on in the North. On the 23rd inst., under a heading of 24-inch letters stating "2,000 Killed," the *Manila Journal* gave the following telegram: "Seoul, Feb. 22, night.—Russia has sustained a crushing, appalling defeat in her designs on Korea. The entire Russian advance has been met by the Japanese troops and a tremendous battle has been the result. Again the Japanese have been successful, the Russians having been driven from position after position, almost as fast as the ground was taken, and finally, the entire Russian army made off in full retreat, the victorious Japanese in hot pursuit. The retreat was almost total, so complete was the demoralization of the Muscovites. Two thousand men killed and wounded is regarded as a conservative estimate of the Russian loss on the field, while the missing have not yet been counted at all. The Japanese loss is unknown, but is considered to be much smaller, as the Japanese fought in more open order and had more artillery fire to back them up in their furious charges upon the enemy." Either the *Cables* is badly heated and the Seoul representative of the Far Eastern Press Association is—well, untrustworthy; or the "telegram" is a fraud on the public.

CANTON NOTES.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN FO."]

THE VICE-ROY.

Viceroy Shun is a man of little pomp, but great work. For the most part he deprecates vainglorious ostentation. Shortly before China New Year he circulated a note amongst his subordinates ordering that no officer, either civil or military, should visit Canton to offer New Year respects to him. Officers in Canton, moreover, were prohibited from spending money on bonds, theatres, and like frivolities. This unusual action most probably gave rise to various rumours to the effect that the Emperor Dowager, who was reported ill some days ago, was dead.

A FIRE AT TONG-U-LAN.

A disastrous fire broke out in Tong-U-Lan, West Canton, at 5 o'clock on the morning of the 24th inst. It originated in a dyeing establishment in Ho-Chan-Tong Street. The flames spread rapidly, there being no hose connection in the vicinity, and walls near by for the most part being dry. On an alarm being given native brigades and the Shamen fire engines hurried to render what assistance they could, but the streets were so narrow and crowded that their progress was much delayed. Thieves and vagabonds took the opportunity of plundering wherever "openings" made by the excitement of the moment permitted. The scene of fire was a densely-populated neighbourhood, frequented by the lower class, where there were several gambling and eating-houses, and brothels. Owners of the latter were seen dragging hand-tied women along the street by ropes, leaving them to other keepers. Nearly all buildings in the following streets were razed to the ground:—New Tong-U-Lan, Old Tong-U-Lan, Ho-Jo-Hong, Esp-Yee-Kan, Teat-Kun, Ha-Chan-Tong, and Chan-Tong-Nam. The number of houses completely gutted is estimated at about 350.

HONGKONG JOTTINGS.

Racing has fairly succeeded in eclipsing everything else in interest in Hongkong during the past week, and it would have been the most sensational news from the North to have distracted most people's attention from the events in the Happy Valley. Not everyone, of course, cares much about the actual racing; but the holiday and the general turn-out could not fail to attract residents from their offices and homes to the pretty race-course which we are fortunate enough to possess in this Island. The first day's enjoyment was a little marred by the prevailing dust-clouds, but afterwards the Jockey Club took the hint and laid the dust by the application of water. Beautiful weather favoured all four days of the meeting, and the ladies no doubt rejoiced duly in the opportunity of showing their costumes without fear of rain spoiling them. The actual racing provided very good sport, and the accidents were few and not serious, except in the case of poor Dandy, whose owners are to be commiserated on the loss of a good little horse. There was a nasty-looking fall in the Lusitano Cup on the first day, but happily no great harm was done. The Off Day mishap, too, fortunately was not so bad as it might have been for the plucky rider of Rex. Mr. "Buxey" carried off first honours easily in the whole meeting, but there was enough distribution of awards to satisfy most. Hongkong has on the whole good reason to congratulate itself on its 1904 meeting.

A correspondent, by the way, suggests that it would be interesting to publish a brief history of the origin of racing in Hongkong and of our first race meeting—on a point, as he says, which few here can recall. "The race-books," he continues, "printed every year only go back to 1870, and the information supplied is meagre. But I know of at least one person who remembers race-meetings held in the early sixties." I wonder if anyone is likely to come forward to supply the information asked for.

It is rumored that a public fund is to be started in Hongkong this week in aid of the Japanese affected by the present war. I do not know whether the money is to be raised for assistance to the wounded or as a kind of widows' and orphans' relief-fund. Both are deserving objects, and it is to be hoped that a substantial sum will be raised. British residents should not require stirring up in the matter, and there will be a good opportunity for the local Chinese to show that the sympathy of Chinese toward Japan in the present struggle is more than skin-deep.

On many occasions the Police authorities have been appealed to in the Daily Press to adopt some regulations for the better ordering of traffic on the side-walks, and I am glad to see that an order has recently been issued calling upon all Chinese who are carrying baskets or poles to walk in the roadway and not on the foot-paths. As the writer of the article on the subject in the Daily Press of the 8th inst. intimated, the Chinese coolies' hat is, equally with the baskets and poles, a nuisance on a crowded pavement beyond all expression of words, and the wearers of these inveterate hats ought to be subject to a like regulation, or be required to carry their hats in their hands, as nearly all the sidewalkers in Hongkong are covered. Some remarks were also made by the writer on the subject of better regulations for vehicular traffic, and though the necessity certainly exists, I think the Police duties in this respect during the Race days were most efficiently discharged and the force is deserving of a word of commendation.

Some months ago the public were led to believe that the tram would be running in the Race week. I suppose the 1904 Race meeting must have been referred to, as there are no present indications of an early service of trams from the town to the Racecourse. However, I believe that this is no fault of the contractors.

The quaintness of Chinese shop-signs is a matter that often causes mirth with the European. One of the oddest shop-signs in the Colony is to be seen in a street in the west of the City. It is very ancient, and the legend carved on the wooden board is: "Dr. C. is a first rate hand for applying broken legs."—John Tommy Thilkin. Another shopkeeper in Wellington Street announces in bold letters that he can "paint and varnish," the absence of the "r" in the last word conveying a meaning which those who have had to do with Chinese contractors will appreciate. But it is not the Chinese firms alone who are distinguished by bad spelling. An eminent firm of lawyers hensed in the Supreme Court have their sign displayed to the effect that they are "notaries public."

Hongkong has had a lively week, with the races, Kowloon sports, and the Dallas Company in full swing. This is the more remarkable as Hongkong is not the liveliest place in the East, as regards amusements. This week I hear there are some good things in store at the Theatre, and on Friday the Masonic Quadrille Club gives its final Ball of the season—a ball which is expected to be quite a big function. The past week was further enlivened by two big Chinese weddings, in one of which the procession took nearly fifteen minutes to pass a given point, the Chinese "music" causing consternation at night amongst the would-be sleepers in the neighbourhood of Wyndham Street. There was also a big Chinese funeral (the result of the Chinese New Year?), at which the professional mourners filled forty-six rickshaws. Music hath charms, but there is something especially charming about the Chinese variety, and more so when it wakes echoes at 1 o'clock in the morning.

Who is responsible for the preservation of the monument erected to the memory of the fallen heroes, who sacrificed their lives for their country, in order to make Hongkong what it is? Is it in order with the fitness of things that Chinese coolies—aye, and Chinese of a better class—should sit around the base, smoking and throwing down cigarettes, fruit skins, and excrement? A little attention to this, and a railing around the monument, would better become these responsible.

BANYAN.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A POINT OF RACING.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 29th February.

A stranger to Hongkong, I went down to the races yesterday and backed Captain Gaunt's mount *Muscatel* for the steeple-chase. After jumping the sod-wall the second time the favorite came inside everything, and with *Muscatel* cantered up the straight. It was obvious neither jockey was in a hurry; one knew he'd gone the wrong course, and the other that he was winning in a canter. I watched the horses unsaddling, and then went to collect my winnings, when I was told that "We only pay first past the post," i.e., they were paying over a horse that had not been the prescribed course.

How far does this rule extend in Hongkong? Because next time it would be worth while to start a pony in a 2-mile race, only send him one, and win in a canter; he would be "first past the post."

I have read a good deal in many parts of the world and never seen a *steeple* of this description. In Australia the judge holds the numbers as they pass him, and as they come back to weigh a red flag is hoisted outside the weighing room and kept up until the clerk of the scales calls "Right" for the third horse, when it is hauled down, and then, not till then, is money paid over. Might I suggest that rule to the H.K.J.C.?

Apologising for troubling you—my excuse is I am many dollars out over that and the saddle cloth incident in the next race.—Yours, sadly,

A. PUNTER.

FOOTBALL.

H.K.F.C. V. H.M.S. "ALBION."

In this match, played in the Happy Valley on Saturday, under Rugby rules, the Club were victorious by a margin of 3 points. The *Albion* winning the toss decided to play with the wind, Sandford of the Club kicking off. The Navy men promptly sent the ball back and into touch, afterwards doing some pretty passing in the Club half. Within a very short time Blackwood (*Albion*) got clean away with the ball and scored a try, which was converted. The Club, now on their mettle, played up gamely, but failed to score. The visitors eventually got under way again, and pressed hard. The half-time whistle afforded the Club relief. The score then was H.M.S. *Albion* 1 goal (5 points); H.K.F.C. nil. After the restart the *Albion* again assumed the aggressive. Pearce (Club) secured the ball, and had a fine run down the Navy half. Warren, however, outpaced him and successfully tackled him; but the ground gained placed the Club team in an advantageous position, and Goldring (who made a welcome reappearance in the Club pack on Saturday) got away neatly, and though he had a nasty collision with the goal-post, scored a try; it was unconverted. Pearce himself was the next player to score, afterwards converting his own try. The result of a very good game was:—H.K.F.C., 1 goal try (5 points); H.M.S. *Albion*, 1 goal (5 points).

The teams were:—

Club.—H. Arthur, full-back; R. A. Whitmore, T. E. Pearce, Liont. Cameron, R.A., and J. Thomas, three-quarters; J. P. Jordan and F. G. Caranagh, halves; H. C. Sandford (capt), E. B. Hallifax, P. W. Goldring, E. D. C. Wolfe, H. E. Rowley, Lieut. Storer, E.A., Lieut. Duncan, R.A., and H. F. Chard, forwards.

H.M.S. *Albion*.—Warren, full-back; Royal, Smart, Milford, and McLeod, three-quarters; Blackwood and Child, halves; Boyle, Roe, Hughes, Boxer, Danby, Mawbey, Hardman-Jones, and Layard, forwards.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEERS.

ARTILLERY COMPANIES.

Parade.—At Head Quarters at 5.30 p.m. on Monday 29th February for 15 Pr. B.L. Gun Drill. C.M.-S. Whelan, R.G.A. will attend.

Parade.—At Head Quarters at 5.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 2nd March, for 15 Pr. B.L. Gun Drill. Sergt. Bartolome, R.G.A. will attend.

Parade.—At Head Quarters at 5.30 p.m. on Friday, 4th March, for 15 Pr. B.L. Gun Drill. C.M.-S. Whelan, R.G.A. will attend.

ALL UNITS.

Parade.—At Head Quarters at 5.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 1st March, for Infantry Drill. A. Sergt. 1st Sherwood Foresters will attend.

Parade.—At Head Quarters on Saturday, 5th March, 9 p.m. sharp for Battalion drill. The Commandant hopes that members will make every endeavour to attend this parade. A Sergt. 1st Sherwood Foresters will attend.

KOWLOON ROCKS DETACHMENT.

Parade.—At Kowloon, Gun Club Hill, at 5.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 1st March, for 15 Pr. B.L. Gun Drill. Sergt. Bartolome, R.G.A. will attend.

Parade.—At Kowloon Docks at 5.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 2nd March, for Infantry Drill. A. Sergt. 1st Sherwood Foresters will attend.

NOTE.

Members of the Corps who are not "efficient" are reminded that the drill season ends on the 31st March, 1904, and that they must complete the requisite number of drills before that date. The Commandant is very anxious that every member should make himself efficient. Further it is necessary that all ranks should attend sufficient drills during the next month so as to make themselves smart for the General Inspection, which will take place on Saturday, 26th March, 1904.

HONGKONG JOCKEY CLUB RACE MEETING.

OFF-DAY.

The Hongkong Jockey Club's 1904 meeting concluded on Saturday, racing being conducted in the afternoon. On the second day's racing, it will be remembered, the Pale Dandy broke his fetlock while racing for the Phaethon Stakes, and had to be shot in consequence. Curiously enough, the most serious accident to a jockey occurred on the off-day, when Mr. Johnstone, with a broken collar-bone, brought Rex home first in a steeplechase for the Tally Ho Cup.

Rex had been jumping well all along till in the vicinity of the Black Rock, second time round, when he fell. Mr. Johnstone, up in an instant, recovered lost ground, riding home amid applause. Great was the surprise when it was learned that Mr. Johnstone had sustained a broken collar-bone, and dislocated his shoulder. He was attended, in the jockeys' room, by Sir Frederick Treves, Surgeon to His Majesty the King, and Dr. Atkinson, being finally carried off in an ambulance. Mr. Johnstone, on Dea Roy, also carried off the first event, the "Rose" Cup. Mr. Crighton brought Pandar home in the John Peel Cup. Once More, with Mr. Moller up, took off the "Lucky" Cup. Mr. Master again added laurels to his reputation by winning three races in succession. Nothing, barring the unfortunate accident, marred the day's sport, weather being glorious, and attendance fair. The hand of the Sherwood Foresters, under Bandmaster E. J. Bradley, played the following selections:—

Overture "Militaire" Gounod
Overture *Les Trois Mousquetaires* Blauvigny
Selection *Three Little Maids* Strauss
Vals "Morgengraue" Sullivan
Selection *H.M.S. Pinfore* Sullivan
Vals "Lustige Bräuer" Sullivan
Selection *Sun Toy* Jones
Two Step "Hawatha" Merot

Results were:—
Tally "Rose" Cup.—Presented. For all beaten subscription griffins. Weight for inches as per scale. Unplaced ponies allowed 5lbs. Entrance \$10 to go to 2nd pony. Three-Quarters of a Mile.

Mr. C. H. Ross's Ben Roy, 11st 1lb 1
Mr. Trever's Ben Roy, 11st 1lb (Mr. Mackie) 2
Major Radcliff's Arranpogue, 10st 12lb 3

• Mr. D. Macdonald's The Provost, 10st 13lb (Mr. Crighton) 1
Mr. Ellis Kadoorie's Testotum, 10st 1lb 0

• Mr. Medico's Culex, 11st (Mr. Milward) 0
• Mr. L. E. Joseph's Bander, 10st 10lb (Mr. Bell) 0
• Mr. E. S. Joseph's Bander, 10st 10lb (Mr. Gillingham) 0

• Capt. Nugent & Mr. Dowling's Saark, 10st 10lb (Mr. Dowling) 0
Mr. E. H. Hinds's Bonzoline, 10st 12lb (Mr. Knox) 0

Mr. Armand's Modesty, 10st 12lb (Mr. Gegg) 0
• H.E. Mr. F. H. May's Blue Skin, 10st 13lb (Mr. Gedge) 0

• Mr. J. H. Lewis's Mongoo, 10st 11lb (Mr. Moller) 0
• Mr. J. H. Lewis's Alarm, 10st 4lb (Mr. Alderton) 0

• 5lbs overweight 0
• 5lbs overweight 0
• 5lbs overweight 0

A good start. Ben Roy challenged the leader at the Black Rock and continued to lead to the finish, winning by a length or so. Fun was second; Arranpogue a good third.

Time, 1 min. 36 4/5 secs.
The Pari-mutuel paid:—\$9.30 winner; \$6.10 first place; \$17.70 second; \$9.10 third.

THE JOHN PEELE CUP.—Presented. For all beaten China ponies. Weight for inches as per scale. Placed ponies to carry 5lbs extra. Unplaced ponies allowed 5lbs. Off-day winners barred. Entrance \$10 to go to 2nd pony. One mile.

Mr. G. H. Potts's Pandar, 11st 6lb (Mr. Crighton) 1
Mr. Kanuck's Once More, 10st 13lb (Mr. Johnstone) 2
Mr. Wheelrut's Protection, 10st 10lb (Mr. Schorr) 3

The ponies set off with Pandar having a fair lead, increased towards the Black Rock. At the village the trio rode neck-and-neck. Pandar again going ahead in the straight, and winning easily. Once More was second, Protection third.

Time, 2 min. 12 2/5 secs.
The Pari-mutuel paid:—\$8.30 winner; \$7.00 first place.

THE TALLY HO CUP.—Steeplechase. Value \$200, for all China Ponies. Weight 11st. From the Grand Stand twice round and in. Cup to go to the rider. Five to start or no race. Entrance \$10 to go to 2nd pony.

Mr. John Peel's Rex, 11st 6lb (Mr. Johnstone) 1
Mr. J. H. Lewis's Muscatel, 6lbs over 2
Mr. Clough's The Crow, 11st 6lb (Mr. Knox) 3

Mr. J. H. Lewis's Starling, 11st 6lb (Mr. Alderton) 0
Mr. C. H. Ross's Ben Roy, 11st 1lb (Mr. Crighton) 0

Mr. John Peel's Havers, 11st 6lb (Mr. Clarke) 0
Ben Roy became unmanageable after a false start, going away with his rider and breaking down the first hurdle. Rex got away at the start, followed closely by The Crow; both these ponies proved themselves excellent jumpers.

At the Black Rock Havers threw his rider, Mr. Clarke, and, after galloping around the outside track, returned by himself to the stable. Passing the stand for the first time The Crow was a little ahead of Rex; Muscatel was third.

Towards the Black Rock, second time round, The Crow and Rex both fell, but their riders managed them well. Rex, particularly, losing very little time. Rex came in first as he liked; Muscatel was second, The Crow third.

The Pari-mutuel paid. \$7.70 winner; \$5.80 first place; \$8.60 second; \$11.40 third.

THE "LUCKY" CUP.—Presented. For all beaten griffins at this meeting. Weight for inches as per scale. A pony that has run second in any race to carry 5lbs extra. This in any race 3lb extra. Unplaced ponies allowed 5lbs. Off-day winners barred. Entrance \$10 to go to 2nd pony. Once round.

Mr. Kanuck's Once More, 11st 1lb (Mr. Moller) 1
Mr. Ellis Kadoorie's Chief, 11st 1lb (Mr. Crighton) 2
• Mr. J. H. Lewis's Regret, 11st 13lb (Mr. Gedge) 3

• Mr. D. Macdonald's The Elder, 10st 10lb (Mr. Clarke) 0
• 5lbs overweight 0
• 5lbs overweight 0

Chief started off with a lead. Towards the football pavilion the ponies lined out in the following procession:—Chief, Regret, The Elder, Once More. The Elder challenged and passed Regret for second place up the hill. Chief continued to lead. Once More took third and then second place towards the village. In the straight Once More overtook Chief, winning handsomely by half a length. Regret was third.

Time, 1 min. 58 3/5 secs.
The Pari-mutuel paid:—\$30.60 winner; \$7 first place; \$5.30 second.

THE VISITORS' CUP.—Presented. Value \$250. For China ponies that have run at this meeting and have not won a race. Weight for inches as per scale. Old ponies to carry 7lbs extra. Subscription griffins allowed 3lbs. Unplaced ponies allowed 5lbs. Off-day winners barred. Entrance \$10 to go to 2nd pony. Five furlongs.

• Mr. Darius's Talbot, 10st 10lb (Mr. Master) 1
• Mr. John Peel's Royal, 10st 11lb (Mr. Crighton) 2
• Mr. Trever's Ben Roy, 10st 12lb (Mr. Mackie) 3

• Mr. Wingard's Quebec, 11st 2lb (Mr. Moller) 0
Mr. Donnich's Growler, 10st 7lb (Mr. Gillingham) 0

• Mr. G. B. Macdonald's Go Bang, 10st 4lb (Mr. Black) 0
• Mr. J. H. Lewis's Alarm, 10st 4lb (Mr. Alderton) 0

• Mr. Ellis Kadoorie's Testotum, 10st 12lb (Mr. Moller) 0
• Mr. E. H. Hinds's Hazard, 10st 10lb (Mr. Makins) 0

• Mr. E. A. Bonner's Clifton, 10st 10lb (Mr. Rutherford) 0
• H.E. Mr. F. H. May's Yellow Skin, 10st 13lb (Mr. Gedge) 0

• 3lbs overweight 0
• 2lbs overweight 0
• 2lbs overweight 0

Testotum made the running up the hill. At the village Talbot, Royal, and Fun outpaced the leader and had a most exciting race in the straight. Mr. Master, on Talbot, won by half a length. Royal, second, was a short head in front of Fun.

Time, 1 min. 18 2/5 secs.
The Pari-mutuel paid:—\$15 winner; \$6.50 first place; \$6 second; \$12.30 third.

THE "FISCAL" CUP.—Presented. For beaten subscription griffins of this season. Weight for inches as per scale. Placed ponies 5lbs extra. Off-day winners barred. Entrance \$10 to go to 2nd pony. One Mile and a Quarter.

Mr. Meifoo's Standard, 11st 6lb (Mr. Master) 1
Mr. Darius's Eclipse, 11st 6lb (Mr. Alderton) 2

• Messrs. Craig and R.A.G.'s Combine, 11st 4lb (Mr. Moller) 3
• Mr. D. Macdonald's The Bailie, 10st 12lb (Mr. Clarke) 0

• Mr. J. H. Lewis's Sonty, 11st 1lb (Mr. Rutherford) 0
• Mr. Wheelrut's Fair Trade, 10st 12lb (Mr. Schorr) 0

• Mr. A. Babington's Rocket, 11st 6lb (Mr. Crighton) 0
• Mr. A. Babington's Turbine, 11st 1lb (Mr. Makins) 0

• Mr. Hart Buck's Herchel II, 10st 9lb (Mr. Mackie) 0
• Mr. W. Donnich's Kid, 10st 10lb (Mr. Gillingham) 0

Rocket made the running for Standard as far as the rock, when Mr. Master took the lead and Rocket fell back. Standard won hands down some three lengths ahead of the field.

Eclipse was second; Combine third.
Time, 2 min. 45 1/5 secs.

The Pari-mutuel paid:—\$3.40 winner; \$5.60 first place; \$8.30 second; \$8.10 third.

THE "CONQUEST" CUP.—Presented. For all beaten China ponies that have run at this meeting. Griffins allowed 5lbs. Subscription griffins allowed 7lbs. Off-day winners barred. Entrance \$10 to go to 2nd pony. From the 2 Mile Post once round and in.

Mr. G. H. Potts's Rebel King, 11st 1lb (Mr. Crighton) 1
Mr. Wheelrut's Protection, 10st 10lb (Mr. Schorr) 2

• Mr. Medico's Culex, 10st 12lb (Mr. Milward) 3
Rebel King started off ahead, making the running for Culex. Up the hill Protection took the second place, and Rebel King left the field behind. Mr. Master romped home without whipping or any exertion. Culex was a bad second, with Protection a head or so behind.

Time, 2 min. 25 2/5 secs.
The Pari-mutuel paid:—\$5.80 winner; \$6.70 first place.

WINNING STABLES.

The following is the list of winning stables at the Race Meeting just completed:—

Stables. 1st. 2nd. 3rd.

Mr. Buxey 10 2 4
Mr. John Peel 7 9 4
The Pals 2 1 5

Mr. G. H. Potts 2 1 3
Mr. F. H. Marshall 2 1 1
Mr. G. C. Master 2 1 1

Mr. Paul 1 3 1
Mr. Beaton 1 2 1
Mr. Darius 1 2 1

Mr. Kanuck 1 2 1
Mr. J. H. Lewis 1 1 4
Mr. Dowling 1 1 1

Mr. V. Apcar 1 1 1
Mr. Fernandez 1 1 1
Mr. C. H. Ross 1 5 1

Mr. Wingard 1 3 1
Mr. Ellis Kadoorie 1 2 1
Mr. Trever 1 1 1

Mr. Wheelrut 1 1 1
Mr. Medico 1 1 2
Major Radcliff 1 1 1

Mr. Clough 1 1 1
Messrs. Craig and R.A.G. 1 1 1
Mr. Armand 1 1 1

Mr. A. Babington 1 1 1
Mr. Wheelrut 1 1 1
Mr. Medico 1 1 2

Mr. Mackie 1 1 1
Mr. Gaunt 1 1 1
Mr. Clarke 1 1 2

Mr. Kanuck 1 1 1
Mr. Knox 1 1 1
Mr. Oswald 1 1 1

Mr. Gegg 1 1 1
Mr. Gegg 1 1 1
Mr. Gegg 1 1 1

WINNING JOCKEYS.

Jockey. 1st. 2nd. 3rd.

Mr. Cox 8 3 3
Mr. Master 7 5 2
Mr. Johnstone 6 5 2

Mr. Burkill 5 6 4
Mr. Alderton 5 5 4
Mr. Clifton 2 1 3

Mr. Cumming 2 1 6
Mr. Crighton 1 5 6
Mr. Dowling 1 1 2

Mr. Schorr 1 1 1
Mr. Milward 1 1 1
Mr. Mackie 1 1 1

Mr. Gaunt 1 1 1
Mr. Clarke 1 1 2
Mr. Kanuck 1 1 1

Mr. Knox 1 1 1
Mr. Oswald 1 1 1
Mr. Gegg 1 1 1

NOTICE.

Owing to the Great Increase in the Furniture Business of Messrs. ACHEE & CO., we are requested by them to Resume Management of the Photographic Business hitherto carried on in their name on our behalf. From this date we will continue the Photographic business at the same place under the name of

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NOTES FROM THE BOTANIC GARDENS.

A very fine creeper, *Bauhinia grandiflora*, trained over the door-pen entrance to the new garden, is now opening its flowers. When the majority of the flowers are open they make one of the finest floral displays to be seen at any time in the gardens. The individual flowers are white, about five inches in length, and between three and four inches across, shaped very much like the white lily so common in Hongkong, and are produced in cymes at the ends of the branches. The leaves are opposite, varying in length from seven to twelve inches and about half an inch broad. This fine creeper is a native of the Eastern Himalayas, and has been known in England for nearly a century.

Bauhinia variegata, a native of the East Indies, forms a small tree and is a very conspicuous object when in flower. A specimen may be seen on the east side of the steps just inside the Albany entrance. The flowers are arranged in small terminal corymbs, but as these are abundantly produced and each flower about three inches in diameter there is no lack of bloom. The general colour of the flowers reminds one of peach-blossom, but the lower petal is variously marked with purple and yellow. To show how much like the white lily so common in Hongkong, and are produced in cymes at the ends of the branches. The leaves are opposite, varying in length from seven to twelve inches and about half an inch broad. This fine creeper is a native of the Eastern Himalayas, and has been known in England for nearly a century.

There are many other trees and shrubs, too numerous to mention in these short notes, coming into flower, but we must not forget to say a word or two about the big masses of Narcissus now in flower near the Bandstand and under the *Zephyr* at the end of the Grevillea walk. They make a grand show, and the scent from them is delightful.

HONGKONG PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY.

An attractive programme is being arranged for the Concert to be given by the above Society on Saturday next in the S. Andrew's Hall. The orchestral section of the Society will play four pieces, the vocal section will sing two or three part-songs, and the rest of the programme will be made up of songs and instrumental solos. Mrs. Johnson, of Amoy, the possessor of a beautiful contralto voice, has kindly consented to come down and sing, and several of our favourite local amateurs have been good enough to promise their assistance. All lovers of good music should make a point of being present. The full programme will be published in a day or two.

SIR FREDERICK TREVES.

Sir Frederick Treves, of whose intended visit here mention has already appeared in the Daily Press, arrived in Hongkong, accompanied by Lady Treves, by the English mail, the P. & O. s.s. *Coromandel*, on Saturday. He was just in time to see the conclusion of the Hongkong Jockey Club's meeting, and incidentally to assist in

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Hongkong;
and all leading Bookshops in the Far East
Hongkong, 14th February, 1903.

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Estimates, Designs & Prices on Application
All descriptions of Granite for Export.
Hongkong, 17th October, 1903. [251]

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Hongkong, 21st September, 1903. [314]

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PANY OF TORONTO, CANADA.
INCORPORATED 1851.
Cash Security ... \$235,719
Total Losses Paid ... \$6,763,240

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WM. MEYERINK & CO.
Hongkong, 18th May, 1903. [104]
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Hongkong, 23rd September, 1903. [297]
NORTH BRITISH AND MERCANTILE
INSURANCE COMPANY.

TOTAL FUNDS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1902,
£16,378,771.

I. AUTHORIZED CAPITAL... £3,000,000 0 0
SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL... 2,750,000 0 0
PAID-UP CAPITAL... 687,600 0 0
II. FIRE FUNDS... 2,967,215 14 10

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SHEWAN, TOMES & CO.,
Agents.
Hongkong, 19th June, 1903. [1888]

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INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE Undersigned, having been appointed
AGENTS for the above Company, are
prepared to accept RISKS at Current Rates.
HOLLAND-CHINA TRADING CO.
Hongkong, 23rd November, 1903. [2160]

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COMPANY, LIMITED.

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AGENTS for the above Company are
prepared to accept Risks against Fire at current
rates.

SIEMSEN & CO. [1]
Hongkong, 1st January, 1904.

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REUTER, BROCKELMANN & CO.,
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Hongkong, 21st April, 1897. [199]

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F. BLACKHEAD & CO., AGENTS.
Hongkong, 31st July, 1903. [449]

NOTICE TO KOWLOON RESIDENTS

EXTRA COPIES of Daily Press are on
sale daily at Mr. H. RUTTON'S
KOWLOON STORE, No. 36, Elgin Road
Hongkong, 22nd December, 1902. [3518]

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Hongkong, 13th June, 1903. [334]

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Hongkong, 18th May, 1903. [150]

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Length on Blocks... 513
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Width of Entrance on Bottom... 77
Water on Blocks at Spring Tide... 24

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Width of Entrance on Bottom... 53
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INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS AND SHIPBUILDERS.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The thirteenth annual general meeting of
members of the Institution of Engineers and
Shipbuilders of Hongkong was held in the
rooms, No. 3 Des Voeux Road Central, on
Saturday evening. There were present: Messrs.
D. MacDonald (President), W. C. Jack (Vice-
President), E. O. Murphy, H. T. Richardson,
J. D. Logan, J. D. W. Thomson, C. F. Focken,
W. Ramsay, T. Skinner, A. Bain, J. MacDonald,
T. Robertson, J. Lambert, A. Ritchie, E. C.
Wilks, J. McLachlan, W. Auld, A. Milroy, P.
Simcock, W. G. Winterburn, H. K. Archibald,
W. Stewart, F. Murchie, R. Knox, J. E.
Miller (hon. secretary), and others.

The PRESIDENT said—Gentlemen—The
annual report and statement of accounts having
been in your hands for some time I propose,
with your permission, to follow the usual custom
and take them as read. For some years past
the Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders
has not been progressing as it should do, and
the close of the year 1903 as you will see from
the report finds us in a worse condition than we
have been in since the Institution was started
just 13 years ago. As one of the founders I re-
member well the high hopes that were enter-
tained by the first Committee and Members of
this great thing to be achieved by this Institu-
tion, and for a number of years it seemed as if
these hopes might be realised. But gentlemen,
we have fallen on evil times and unless the
members wake up and take more interest and
give more support to the working of the In-
stitution, the time is not far distant when the
question of winding up the Company will have
to be seriously considered; for the Institution
at the present time is not self-supporting. The
balance (which I see the printer has kindly
put in large letters) is slightly misleading as
this balance is only attained after adding
\$395.00 submitted for the new billiard table
and about \$400.00 from the Duncanson account,
without which we should have been about
\$700.00 to the bad, and I am sure none of the
members wish this Institution to be run on
charity. The Engineers and Shipbuilders of
this Colony are well able to maintain an In-
stitution worthy of the trades from which it
takes its name, but if they decline to
support such an Institution then there is
nothing to be done but bow to the inevitable
and shut up. Speaking for myself I should be
very sorry indeed if we are forced to close—
because it would be a sign that we E. and S. in
Hongkong are lagging behind while kindred
institutes all over the world are flourishing and
progressing ahead. Some members I am told, com-
plain that they do not derive any benefit from
the Institute, or at any rate not sufficient for
the \$2.50 subscribed per month—well that I
should say is the fault of the member, for you
only require to walk into the reading room and
look at the collection of papers and magazines
and the splendid reference library to convince
you that the member who is incapable of
taking \$2.50 worth out of that room in the
same number of hours must be wanting in
those qualifications which are requisite in every
Engineer and Shipbuilder. Before closing my
remarks I would draw the attention of
members to the library which has lately been
started under the direction of Mr. W. H.
Williams for instruction in Practical
Mathematics and Mechanics, and with this
Institution in a flourishing condition there is
no reason why these classes should not be
arranged so that every member who wished to
do so, might take part in them, and this is only
one of the many benefits that members might
derive from the Institute if they would support it
in a whole-hearted and genuine manner.
Before moving the adoption of the report I shall
be pleased to answer any questions or give any
information within my power.

Replying to Mr. Murphy, the hon. treasurer
(Mr. C. F. Focken) said the amount outstand-
ing and due to the Institution was now about
\$1500.

The President proposed, Mr. Jack seconded,
and it was agreed that the report and accounts
as presented be adopted and passed.
Mr. Bain drew attention to the falling off in
membership during the past few years, and said
there was something wrong somewhere.

The President replied that the committee
had been doing all in their power to make
the Institute attractive to members, the
majority of whom seemed quite disinterested
in the matter.

The meeting then proceeded to discuss the
question of admitting marine officers and
gentlemen connected with shipping as associ-
ate members of the Institution.

Mr. Jack mentioned that the committee had
already discussed the matter, and agreed it
would be best to leave the views of members
regarding the proposal. In the opinion of the
committee gentlemen connected with the
shipping interests, assistant and advance—ship-
ping clerks, captains, and officers of
steamers—should be associate members, but
they would, of course, be subject to
election by ballot by the committee, and if
admitted would have the same privileges as
ordinary members with the exception that they
would have no voice in the management of the
Institute.

Several members were strongly in favour of
keeping the Institution purely for engineers
and shipbuilders, and if necessary, the sub-
scriptions might be raised. Eventually it was
agreed to postpone the discussion in order to
get the views of seagoing members.

The question of increasing subscriptions
was deferred to the next meeting.

The following officers were elected for the
ensuing year.

President—Mr. W. C. Jack. Vice-Presi-
dents—H. T. Richardson and J. Lambert.
Committee of Management—Messrs. D. Mac-
donald, H. Richardson, J. Lambert, T. Banks,
C. W. Ramsay, J. D. Thomson, J. Logan,
E. C. Wilks, J. MacDonald, and F. R. Robert-
son. Hon. Secretary—Mr. J. G. Miller. Hon.
Librarian—Mr. J. D. W. Thomson. Hon.
Treasurer—Mr. C. F. Focken.

Votes of thanks to the officers for their
services during the past year brought the pro-
ceedings to a close.

SHARE REPORT.

Messrs. Erich Georg & Co. say in their
Weekly Share List, dated Hongkong, 27th
February—Race holidays have interrupted
the business and but little has been done in
shares during the week under review. There is
hardly any inquiry at all, and a good many
stocks are more or less nominal. The sterling
demand rate on London is 1s. 10 5/16d; while
the rate of exchange is 1s. 7 1/2 for a T-T and
1s. 7 1/4 for a three days' sight private
draft.

BANK SHARES—Hongkong and Shanghai
have been done at \$612 ex div, and bonus of
\$2—\$239.94 per share paid on 22nd instant;
the London rate is 259 ex div. Nationals are
unchanged.

MARINE INSURANCE SHARES.—No business
has come to our notice; quotations are un-
changed with the exception of China Traders,
which are quoted \$54.

FIRE INSURANCE SHARES.—Hongkong

are offering at \$300, China at \$290.
SHIPPING SHARES.—Hongkong, Canton and
Macao remain on offer at \$28. Indo-China
sold in a small way at \$83, but are quoted now
\$82 1/2; the Shanghai rate is 1s. 38 buyers.
China and Manila are obtainable at \$24.
Douglases at \$34, and Star Forries at \$30 for
old and \$182 for new shares. Shells sold at
21 1/2 and 20 1/2, and have sellers at latter rate.

REFINERIES.—China Singers changed hands
at \$107. Luzzons unchanged.

MIXED SHARES.—Without sales and no
change in quotations.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hong-
kong and Whampoa Dock Company shares got
stronger after the meeting held on 22nd instant,
and have since been done up to \$292 ex
dividend and bonus of 87 per share paid on 23rd
instant; at that rate there are further sellers.
Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown
Company shares sold and are in demand at \$95;
the 17th ordinary annual meeting of share-
holders will be held on 10th proximo, transfer
books closing from 14 to 10th proximo. New
Amoy Docks are unchanged. Farman's ad-
vanced in the north to 1s. 140, but the latest
quotation by wire is 1s. 135 sales. Shanghai
and Hankow Wharf shares are quoted by wire
1s. 210 sellers.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Nothing
has been done under this heading and quotations
are unchanged with sellers all round. The
quotation for Shanghai Lands is 1s. 110 ex
dividend and bonus of 10 per cent. paid on 24th
instant.

COTTON MILLS.—Unchanged. The report of
the Loou Kung Mow Cotton Spinning and
Weaving Company, Limited, for the year ended
31st December last, states that throughout the
year the mill has been working during the day
only and that the machinery is in good working
order. The year's working shows a credit of
Spinning account of 1s. 36,914.48 (against 1s.
79,042.24 for 1902), and a balance at credit of
1s. 44,733.58 for 1902, which sum the directors
recommend to be dealt with as follows: write
off 1s. 5,900 for depreciation of property
account, Chinese houses. 1s. 6,000 of reservoir
and land improvements. 1s. 37,574.36 off
machinery, and 1s. 584.08 off furniture, carry-
ing 1s. 15,500 forward to new account. The
value of buildings will then stand in the books
at 1s. 195,575.47 (against 1s. 195,424.12 as
per last report), reservoir and land improve-
ments 1s. 20,000 against 1s. 26,000 as per
last report, machinery 1s. 485,000 (against
1s. 532,574.36), Chinese houses property 1s.
40,000 (against 1s. 45,000), and furniture 1s.
1,860.00 (against 1s. 2,554.17). The value of
stock of yarn, cotton and waste, coals and mill
stores appear as with 1s. 408,404.09 (against 1s.
374,909.06, as per last report, and 1s. 315,495
(against 1s. 3,663 as per last report). On the
other hand overdraft with bankers,
loans against cotton and other creditors appear
with 1s. 433,705.69 (against 1s. 363,249.79 as
per last report).

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Island Cements
have dropped to \$24 1/2 sellers. Ropes sold at
\$145 and Watkins at \$74. China Providents
are obtainable at \$8.50 and Steam Waterboats
at \$151. Luggats are quoted in the north
1s. 300; a wire from the north states that
an interim dividend of 1s. 10 per share on
account of the year beginning 1st November,
1903, has been declared, payable on 15th prox;
the following telegraphic information, dated
16th instant, has been received from the man-
ager in Bangkok: "daily aggregate output of
crude petroleum 73,000 gallons, crude petro-
leum in tanks at date 170,000 gallons, kerosene
made since 30,000 cuses, and kerosene in stock
at refinery at date 80,000 cases; the production
is smaller on account of the Chinese New
Year holidays interfering."

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.....	To-morrow.
.....	About 3rd Mar.
.....	5th March.
.....	15th March.
.....	25th March.
.....	13th April.
.....	26th April.
.....	8th Mar., at 1 P.M.
.....	2nd Mar., at Noon.
.....	To-morrow.
.....	17th March.
.....	25th March.
.....	5th April.
.....	13th April.
.....	3rd May.
.....	23rd March.
.....	15th March.
.....	20th April.
.....	About 1st March.
.....	9th March.
.....	27th April.
.....	16th March.
.....	24th March.
.....	24th March.
.....	3rd March.
.....	About 8th March.
.....	Quick despatch.
.....	To-morrow.
.....	2nd Mar., at 3 P.M.
.....	3rd Mar., at 4 P.M.
.....	Quick despatch.
.....	4th Mar., 10 A.M.
.....	To-day, at 10 A.M.
.....	To-morrow, 11 A.M.
.....	2nd Mar., at 4 P.M.
.....	About 5th March.
.....	5th March, 10 A.M.
.....	12th Mar., 10 A.M.
.....	To-morrow, 4 P.M.

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1904

... WEDNESDAY	... 2nd March
... WEDNESDAY	... 16th March
... WEDNESDAY	... 30th March
... WEDNESDAY	... 13th April
... WEDNESDAY	... 27th April
... WEDNESDAY	... 11th May
... THURSDAY	... 26th May
	... June

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... WEDNESDAY	... 11th May
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	... June

.. THURSDAY ...
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... THURSDAY THURSDAY ...	23rd June

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